



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 12, 2008

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL PRESENTS FORT ORD'S KEY EARLY TRANSFER PARTICIPANTS

Fort Ord's environmental investigation and cleanup successes are as varied as its rich physical landscape. The omission of any brushstroke from this colorful canvas would inevitably diminish the achievements of all those who worked together over time to take Fort Ord from a military monument to a vibrant future community.

United States Army

The Army has assumed a vital role in transforming Fort Ord's distinguished military past into a prologue for upcoming expectations and in opening up the spectrum of land use from customary khaki to the full palette. The former military installation is a federal Superfund site that requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to sign off on environmental cleanup and safety issues relative to removal of any potential ordnance and explosives. The Army is also subject to performing certain complex bureaucratic procedures before it can transfer surplus lands and properties.

So that redevelopment at Fort Ord would not be unduly slowed, the Army has acted with the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) to promote an expedited method for performing the work to facilitate the early transfer. The Army has already spent more than \$350 million in cleaning up soil, groundwater, and facility contamination at Fort Ord. In March 2007, the Army and FORA entered into an Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) that enabled the Army to transfer roughly 3,300 acres and responsibility for removing munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) to FORA. In July, under the terms of the ESCA, the Army provided \$100 million to FORA to complete the investigation and cleanup of munitions on the property.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA recognized the importance of addressing cleanup and redevelopment as elements of the same comprehensive picture — returning Fort Ord to productive use as rapidly and efficiently as possible. The result was an innovative approach that has and will continue to serve as an example for revitalization projects at base closures nationwide.

Because the former military installation is classified as a federal Superfund site, EPA became the lead regulatory agency at Fort Ord, an invaluable role that will be maintained throughout the privatized cleanup. EPA supplied critical technical support for resolving the difficult issues surrounding munitions investigation and removal. It was also an integral part of the team that negotiated the necessary documents to achieve Fort Ord's early transfer.

Both EPA and DTSC, the state regulatory agency at Fort Ord, share the common commitment of expediting not only the productive but safe reuse of former military facilities and other properties within their oversight.

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

While DTSC is committed to protecting public health and the environment from toxic harm, it identified this position as part of the bigger picture of helping Fort Ord realize tremendous redevelopment potential. Most military land transfers occur only after cleanup actions have been taken; in this early transfer, however, FORA will accomplish the MEC cleanup after the land transfers.

DTSC recognizes several key factors in successful military facility property transfers, including the involvement of regulators early in and throughout the process and effective teamwork among stakeholders. As with Fort Ord, cleanup of former military bases can entail the detection and removal of MEC and unexploded ordnance, as well as contaminants in groundwater and in soil. In this early transfer, DTSC played a fundamental part by providing important technical input for the potential MEC investigation cleanup scenarios.

Because the Army has already funded the entire cleanup of the parcels, DTSC strongly supported this early transfer, which will enable FORA and its contractors to begin and continue the work until the job is finished. FORA estimates this will shave eight years off the previous Army schedule.

In keeping with the bigger picture of protecting California's bays and coastlines, DTSC will exercise long-term oversight of this coastal treasure that has numerous bright prospects.

Ford Ord Reuse Authority (FORA)

Because military budgets characteristically operate under constraints that do not readily accommodate expedited cleanups of former military bases, FORA brokered the privatized cleanup of Fort Ord with the Army. Along with California Congressman Sam Farr, FORA spearheaded and should be credited for many of the bold images that will depict Fort Ord's future. The organization was created by State legislation in 1994 and is responsible for overseeing civilian reuse and redevelopment of this former military installation.

FORA's 1997 Base Reuse Plan defines in broad strokes the type of uses that can occur at the former base and designates the general areas in which the different uses can occur. The plan covers a wide range of uses—education, residential, recreation, open space, habitat conservation for endangered species of plant and wildlife, commercial and light industrial, and others—and requires improvements and mitigations to support those intended functions.

Over the past several years, FORA and local city and county land use jurisdictions have collaborated on a number of major reuse projects that will directly address the regional need for new jobs and housing, which has adversely affected redevelopment progress at Fort Ord. Nonetheless, approximately 3,719 people are already employed through new jobs at the former base, only a fraction of the 18,000 anticipated by the year 2015. In all, seven educational institutions now have or will have facilities at the former military installation, affording advances in education and beneficial economic development to the region.

FORA's painstaking effort to help paint a vivid outlook at former Fort Ord has been sustained for over a decade—and is ongoing. Fort Ord has long made and continues to make history.